

A committee of the county society is provided for in our plan, but it is a committee to investigate and report the facts to our attorney and to consult with the defendant. The suit will be defended just the same whether such a committee is needed or appointed or not. Have no anxiety on that score.

Delinquent members are not members in good standing. Any names reported to us by county secretaries as "delinquent" are dropped from our rolls; the State Society recognizes only members and non-members; not members "delinquent." If you are in the delinquent class at the time you treat some patient who subsequently brings suit for malpractice, you can not be defended by the State Society. Therefore, it is incumbent upon you to look after your standing in your county society and see that at all times your dues are fully paid up. The amount is very small. In no county society in the state are the dues any more than would be the price of medical insurance alone, if you undertook to buy it from a company.

Medical Defense of our members is a positively established fact. You will be defended in any suit for alleged malpractice that may be brought against you, absolutely without cost to yourself. This protection of the State Society covers all of your work since July 1st, 1909, and will cover it so long as you remain in good standing in your society. Is it not worth while to belong and to keep up your membership?

The report of the Council presented at the Sacramento meeting of the State Society, calls attention in most calm words to an evil in the practice of medicine which has been and is growing at such an alarming rate that it threatens to work incalculable evil, not alone to the younger physicians, but to the public and to the public esteem of medicine and of medical men. To put a noble and a learned profession on the bargain counter basis, is certainly an undignified thing to do. Furthermore, either consciously or unconsciously, any physician who is treating sick people on the dollar-a-month plan is going to spend the smallest possible amount of time on each patient, with the foregone result that a great many patients will be neglected, not infrequently to their serious peril. It is a calamitous thing from every point of view and if there is the slightest possibility of discovering a remedy, let us devoutly pray that it may be discovered. The House of Delegates called upon the President to appoint a committee to study this matter fully and report at the next meeting. Undoubtedly the President will take the greatest care in the selection of the committee, and that being done we should do everything in our power to aid them in their work. Contract practice, lodge practice, dollar-a-month concerns, all of these institutions that work for the lowering of the medical profession and the injury of the public, should, in some way, be abolished. The man at the top of a particular specialty can laugh at all this, but the general practitioner or the younger man can not laugh; he sees not only unfair competition, but he sees actual injury

being done to people who could afford, and would if they knew just what they were getting in the way of medical care, to pay a competent physician his regular fees and get that proper care for which they pay. To the specialist at the top, people will come even if they do belong to some organization permitting them to receive free treatment, provided that they have some serious complaint along the line of that man's specialty. It is a question directly affecting the rank and file of the profession, and it is the rank and file that really counts, when all is said and done. Of course it is impossible to legislate honesty or decency into any one. But can there not be found some way in which the men who are prostituting themselves and their profession in this manner can be shown the error of their way and the harm they are doing, not to themselves alone but to the whole profession of medicine and to the public?

The anti-tuberculosis activities in the state are certainly making progress. Not only is the medical

TUBERCULOSIS CAMPAIGN. profession arousing a good deal of interest among the laity in the work of fighting this disease, but it is also arousing a

good deal of interest and activity among its own members. A great many more physicians are now studying and writing upon the modern handling of cases of tuberculosis than ever before and the interest seems to be very general. The State Association has made an excellent showing and the Second Annual Report of the San Francisco Society is a most creditable document. The dispensary started in San Francisco should be of the greatest benefit to that community and it is a shame that our municipal governments are not sufficiently alive to the importance of the movement to take it up officially and operate these dispensaries as municipal affairs. In the long run the community would greatly benefit in actual hard dollars, for every breadwinner or housewife incapacitated from work sooner or later makes some charge or expense to the community. Every such individual cured and put back into the producing class is a definite financial gain to the city. Insurance companies are appreciating this very fully and not a few of them have arranged to have their insured examined as often as they may desire, free of charge, on the principle that it is cheaper to keep the insured well and working and thus paying premiums, than to let them get sick and die when they might be saved for some years longer. This is exactly the idea involved in the commercial consideration of the anti-tuberculosis movement; it is cheaper and better, financially, for the community to cure or greatly relieve a tuberculous than it is to allow him to go his course, spread the disease to many others, become a helpless invalid and very often a charge on the city, and die far short of the years allotted him and which might have been his with a little thoughtful care. Again is the fact emphasized that bad housing is the most important factor in the spread of tuberculosis, for though but 27 of those treated at the dispensary in San Francisco were females, it appears that 13% of the total number treated were housewives; the one who is